



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

**JOURNAL OF THE STATISTICAL SOCIETY,**  
**MARCH, 1863.**

---

**MORTALITY OF CHILDREN in the PRINCIPAL STATES of EUROPE.**

*By* WILLIAM FARR, ESQ., M.D., D.C.L., F.R.S.

[Continued from p. 149, vol. xxviii.]

[Read before the Statistical Society, December, 1865.]

WORDSWORTH, with the insight of a great poet into life, has said truly: "The Child is father of the Man." Unless the child survive the perils of childhood, the man cannot exist; and while existence endures, it retains in the poet, the soldier, or the labourer, ineffaceable traces of the conditions of childhood.

I have to ask you now to fix your attention upon the children of Europe under *five* years of age. Some of them are in swaddling clothes, only capable of sucking or uttering inarticulate cries; others are active intelligent boys and girls, such as you see mustered in infant schools. They are helpless and dependent. They consume and are unproductive; they are of no occupation; so in the eyes of an economist of the old school they are worth nothing.\* Yet they fill a large space in the affections of mankind: they exist in millions: the little children of our day will be the soldiers, sailors, workmen, parents, of the generation to come; and the torch of industry can only be transmitted through their hands to future ages.

We may then well inquire with some anxiety, what is now the condition of children in the principal States of Europe?

This is a large subject. We may endeavour to ascertain, with M. Quetelet in Belgium, the height and weight of the children of the several races. We may test their strength, or depict their form in its wide ranges through Holland, England, and Italy.

Their intelligence and passions vary and invite research. But leaving these themes, I have only to inquire here into their mortality; its extent, its causes, and the evils which it reveals, with a view to the discovery of remedies.

It is well known that a large and variable proportion of children

\* See estimate of the money value of a man at different ages, in vol. xvi, pp. 43—4, of the *Statistical Journal*.

die in the first five years of age ; and that while in certain conditions they nearly all survive, in other conditions they nearly all perish.

On like conditions the lives of animals depend. The young of some vertebrate animals are able to run about shortly after birth, and to a certain extent to take care of themselves. Among birds, we have chickens and ducklings at home almost as soon as they are born ; the young of thrushes, sparrows, pigeons, and ravens, naked and defenceless, are nurtured with warmth and food by the parent birds. While colts, calves, lambs, pigs, and kids, run about ; kittens and whelps are born blind. But in all cases the affection and intelligence of the parents prove equal to the occasion, either in the wild or domestic species.

So it is, as a rule, in the supreme race of the world. The boy is no sooner born than he begins to breathe, while his arterialized blood circulates through his limbs and lungs ; his body is cleansed and clothed and warmed ; he is supplied with food at his mother's breasts, and nursed in her arms. The umbilical cord is tied ; the breathing, if it sometimes pauses, is excited. The circulation and the breath are easily stopped ; a few drops of laudanum are fatal ; so is exposure to severe cold, and so is privation of food. The child may be prematurely born ; or be left by his lost mother without milk, helpless, to the care of strangers. The frame may be deformed or diseased, and ready for dissolution. In many of these cases death is inevitable.

It must be evident, from all these considerations, that the life of the infant in its first year of age is almost indissolubly bound up with the life of the mother, and to a certain extent with that of the father, from whom the means of living are derived. Night and day the infant requires tendence ; if the poor mother, therefore, is taken from home habitually, to work either in the field or the factory, and the rich mother is absorbed by the claims of society, the infant is in either case neglected and partially abandoned.

Marriage is not only a sacred bond of perpetual love, but a compact between husband and wife to fulfil the contingent duties of father and mother. The child is thus insured, to a certain extent, protection during the longest of two lives. In consequence, however, of crime, vice, drunkenness, illness, ill-fortune, or bad times, the parents of large families especially are reduced to extremities, in which their children inevitably suffer the want not only of the comforts, but of the necessities of life. Such is the fate of many children born in wedlock.

The number of children born in any country out of wedlock is not exactly known, but it is considerable and variable. They have parents in all classes of society, and some great men in history have been bastards ; but bastards have generally been ill-treated, and even

in the present day of dawning humanity, are visited bitterly for the sins of their fathers and mothers. Their mothers seldom greet them; their fathers are inclined to desert them. The chastity of women is the foundation of society, and its loss is punished by public opinion; so there is a natural tendency to conceal illegitimate births. Childbearing interferes with a life of illicit pleasure; and mistresses, prostitutes, and profligate wives, often find their children in the way. Thackeray has incarnated these women with exquisite truth in Becky Sharp. Yet, truth compels us to say, that passion and affection for children are also found coexisting in the same breast. As races of men who destroy their children die out in the presence of races who cherish their offspring, so there is a natural and inexorable elimination of the bad and imperfect specimens of good races.

Illegitimate children, for various reasons are almost exclusively the victims of infanticide. And it is chiefly for their succour that foundling hospitals have been erected in the Catholic States of Europe. I shall return to this subject; but it is clear, upon the most cursory survey, that while cases of infanticide figure in the criminal returns of every civilized State, the number of deaths from that crime is inconsiderable in comparison with the numbers of untimely deaths from other causes.

The last number of the *Journal* contains, in an extract from the Supplement to the Registrar-General's 25th Annual Report, "Returns of the Mortality among Children under Five Years of Age." I have discussed in that Supplement the mortality and the causes of death; the tables displaying the several causes of death in childhood in each of the 631 districts of England and Wales. (*See Journal*, vol. xxviii, pp. 402—13).

Unfortunately we have not yet got similar data for any other State; but, restricting the inquiry to the simple question of mortality, I shall be able to submit to you a tolerably accurate view of the loss of young lives in Europe during recent years.

The data will appear in the *Journal*, and some of them are on the wall. (See Tables pp. 29 to 35.)

In the first place, let us ask how many children out of 1,000,000 born alive, see their fifth birthday—live five years?

In the north, there is the fine free population of Norway, scattered over the habitable parts of a large well-watered territory, in some parts fruitful or covered with pine forests, in other parts sterile: in addition to fish in their waters and agricultural produce, they derive profits from timber, mines, and ships. The climate is severe, but on the western Atlantic slope the severity is softened by the Gulf Stream. In some of its features we are reminded of Scotland.

Out of 100 children born in Norway, 83 attain the age of 5 years; in Sweden 80; in Denmark 80, including Schleswig and

Holstein down to the Elbe, the country of the Angles of old; in England 74; in Belgium 73; in France 71; in Prussia 68; in Holland 67; in Austria 64; in Spain 64; in Russia 62; in Italy 61.

Thus the chance is always in favour of the life; but here it is 8 to 2, there only 3 to 2.

What is the proportion of *deaths* under the age of 5 out of 100 children that see the light? In Norway 17; Denmark 20; Sweden 20; England 26; Belgium 27; France 29; Prussia 32; Holland 33; Austria 36; Spain 36; Russia 38; Italy 39.

Thus Death, drawing lots for the lives of children, has in one part of Europe 2, in another 4 out of 10 in his favour.

Out of 100 children born in addition to the number 17 dying in Norway, 3 die in Denmark, 3 in Sweden, 9 in England, 10 in Belgium, 12 in France, 15 in Prussia, 16 in Holland, 19 in Austria, 19 in Spain, 21 in Russia, 22 in Italy. Thus in the sunny climate of the south, death carries off two children from Italians for every one he takes in high latitudes from Norwegians.

In all England 26 children under 5 years of age die out of 100 born; but in her healthy districts she loses only 18, nearly the same number as Norway; while in her thirty large town districts,\* 36 perish. There is the same contrast between the country and the city as there is between Norway and Italy. In France I find contrasts of the same sort in the departments.

If we turn to particular classes the mortality presents still larger contrasts: according to the peerage records, out of 100 children born alive, 90 survive; 10 die in the first 5 years of age. The deaths among the children of the clergy are nearly in the same proportion.†

The proportions have been reversed in some foundling hospitals.

For reasons which I have explained, the rate of mortality is only exactly determined by comparing the average numbers living with the deaths in a given time. That we can do for eleven of the States of Europe, and Table 3 exhibits the results.

We are able in some States to marshal our little troops in three regiments, the first of babes under 1, the second of children of 1—3, the third of children of 3—5. The mortality is shown in the table.

By the English Life Table, of 100 children born, 15 die in the first year, 5 in the second, 3 in the third year, 2 in the fourth, and

\* Comprising St. Giles, Holborn, East London, St. George-in-the-East, St. Saviour, Southwark; St. Olave, Southwark; St. George, Southwark; Southampton, Yarmouth, Norwich, Salisbury, Exeter, Bristol, Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Leicester, Nottingham, Derby, Liverpool, Wigan, Bolton, Salford, Manchester, Ashton-under-Lyne, Preston, Leeds, Sheffield, Hull, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and Merthyr Tydfil.

† See authorities cited in Supplement to Registrar General's Twenty-fifth Report, p. xii.

1 in the fifth; making 26 in the 5 years of age. Of the 15 who die in the first year, 5 die in the first month of life, 2 in the second, and 1 in the third.

The *annual* rate of mortality in the first week of life in France is 154 per cent.; and the greater the mortality in any country generally, the greater is its excess in the first days of life.

I am not prepared now to discuss the Causes of the deaths of children in the several States of Europe; but those Causes are necessarily various, and we must be on our guard against assuming that in countries like Italy and Russia, where the rate of mortality is nearly the same, the causes are not very different. The slightest reflection shows us that the death of an infant may be the consequence of any one of a thousand causes.

We know, on the principle of the conservation of force, that the vital force of an animal may be converted into chemical force, heat or electricity, in a great variety of ways. Two groups of causes may be distinguished: in the first group the vital force is converted by the direct application of another form of force, such as a blow, a wound, lightning, fire; in the second group the conversion is the result of diseases which are intermediate transformations.

The causes which have hitherto attracted most attention are forms of human agency, and are known as infanticide and child murder. This crime prevails everywhere to some extent, for a certain number of wretched women of all nations kill or abandon their children. It demands all the vigilance of the magistrate; but I hope to be able to convince you that in the present day it is not in any country the cause of any considerable number of deaths.

I will take our own country in the first instance, as for this crime, and upon our own confessions, England has just been arraigned at the bar of public opinion, by the Abbé Cesare Contini, in the "Journal of the Statistical Society of Paris." The Abbé came over to this country for information. I saw him, and I believe he called upon Dr. Lankester, one of the coroners for Middlessex. He has looked up all our blue books and literature. He quotes passages from the "Times," the "Daily News," the "Morning Chronicle," Dr. Burke Ryan, Mr. Chadwick, the Judicial Returns, the Registrar-General's Reports, and thus concludes:

"If the observation of Dr. Lankester is correct, as to the number of infanticides not judicially proved, 13,000 children under 7 years of age perish every year in England by their parents' hands (*des mains de leurs parents*)."

Again: "There exists in England, and particularly in the manufacturing districts, a frightful speculation of the parents upon the lives of their children. It is the reproduction upon a grand scale of that crime which conferred such sad celebrity on Palmer and

"De la Pommeraye. The parents insure their childrens' lives in "burial clubs."

He then cites the alleged instances of the sacrifice of children insured in these clubs, with the opinions of the Rev. Mr. Clay, Mr. Edwin Chadwick, Mr. Gardner, and Mr. Coppock. We can now add the infamous Winsor case to the Abbé's instances. He brings in the women of Thorpe, where they had formed "*une véritable association, ayant pour objet de se débarrasser, par l'empoisonnement, de leurs enfans et de leurs maris.*" Dr. Hunter's sombre picture of the Marshland women is hung up in the back ground.

Dr. Lankester held inquests on 74 bodies of children found dead in a part of Middlesex where the great railways terminate, and he infers that as many more—that is, 74—escape all inquiry.

The Abbé turns to our criminal statistics, and finds that inquests were held on 6,506 children under 7 years of age: he infers that all these children on whom inquests are held, and 6,506 more, whose bodies, he assumes, never fall under the notice either of the coroners or police, "perish by the hands of their parents!" You will see from this that the Abbé Contini does not understand the nature of the coroner's inquest, which, held in all cases of sudden and violent death, does not in itself imply the suspicion of guilt in any parties. The 1,531 deaths of children under the age of five by "burns and scalds," were certainly not "in great part the work of crime or "*premeditated negligence.*"

In all England 180 children under 5 years of age were returned by the coroners under the head of "murder" or "manslaughter" in 1862, when the deaths of 178,511 children under 5 years of age from all causes were recorded: so about 1 death in 1,000 deaths of children is stated to be by murder or by manslaughter,\* which it will be recollected excludes the idea of intentional infanticide. Add any reasonable proportion—Dr. Lankester's, or any other estimate—to the ascertained number of infanticides, of child murders, and the numbers of such deplorable cases will still be inconsiderable, compared with the untimely deaths from other causes. I venture to affirm of the countries of the continent—of France, of Italy, and of Spain—where the mortality of children is much higher than it is in England, and we are told nothing of its causes,—that comparatively few children are wilfully killed by their parents.

For the sake of mothers, however, as well as of children, the strictest watch should be kept over the crime of infanticide. Both Mr. Wakley and Dr. Lankester deserve great credit for their exertions, which have saved many children and kept many unhappy women in desperate circumstances from rushing into crime. The

\* 133 persons, 5 men, 128 women, were tried in 1864, for concealing the births of infants; 45 were acquitted and 88 were convicted.

coroners of the country deserve all the assistance which public officers or the public can afford ; and it would be well if it were made the duty of a health officer to inquire into the cause of every death uncertified by a legally qualified medical practitioner.

The other States of Europe would find some such institution as the coroner's court, in addition to their police, of singular use ; and so they would our system of requiring medical certificates of the causes of death.

In England still-born children are not registered ; and in France new-born infants who die before registration are recorded as still-born. This defect evidently throws a gate open to crime in both countries. With the practice in other States I am not acquainted.

One word about *burial clubs*, which the Abbé Cesare Contini imagines have been founded in England to give prizes to mothers who kill their offspring. I quite concur in opinion with those who think that the statute is right which makes it unlawful for one person to insure another's life in whose continuance he has no pecuniary interest ; and that the burial clubs have been turned to account by criminals. But to kill the child is to rob the club ; for the insurance is paid out of the contributions of the members ; and it is quite certain that as a speculation a club of infanticides would not pay. It is almost as reasonable to suppose that the members of the Equitable Society insured their lives with the intention of committing suicide, as that the working classes founded burial societies with the intention of committing infanticide.\* Surely the respect for the bodies of the dead is a well understood feeling which has actuated men from the earliest ages down to the present day ; and in England every person, however poor, is entitled to the religious rites of burial, which are denied to the poor in many other countries. But to be buried at the expense of the parish is held to be a disgrace in those very districts where burial societies abounded ; and it was to shield themselves and their children from this disgrace that the people joined these societies.

There will always be a volcanic mass of lunatics and criminals ever and anon breaking out into terrible eruptions of crime ; but the area of this mass is limited, and we must not suffer its burning cinders and ashes to withdraw our eyes away from the fair fields of humanity which cover the world.

I have discussed at some length this matter, because it is chiefly upon the working classes themselves that we depend for the preser-

\* The Select Committee on Friendly Societies (1854) reported that "the instances of child murder, where the motive of the criminal has been to obtain money from a burial society, are so few as by no means to impose upon Parliament an obligation, for the sake of public morality, to legislate specially with a view to the prevention of that crime."



vation of their offspring; as, unless the people are sound at heart, vain are the efforts of governments, of municipalities, of colleges of physicians, and of statistical societies.

I will, before concluding, set down rapidly a few of the evils which exist in Europe, and which are already known to be fatal to the lives of children, directly or indirectly. While infanticide kills its hundreds, these silent evils put to death myriads.

1. First on the list are the economic wants of the population, part'y the result of idleness, illness, inaptitude for work, want of capitalists, want of roads, and want of freedom of trade and of opinion: anything which stimulates and sets free the trade and industry and mind of Europe, will therefore give parents increased means of supplying the wants of their offspring. To improve health will be to add fresh vigour to industry.

2. The largest proportion of the mothers of Europe obtain no skilled help in childbirth; and the existing nurses of the middle classes are defectively educated; hence a considerable loss of life among new-born children. The earlier stages of children's diseases, when medicine is of avail, are almost invariably neglected. The remedy is the creation of a class of medical health officers and nurses well versed in *hygiène*.

3. Soon after the child is born it requires its mother's milk, and where this fails some judicious substitute. The substitute suitable to each country should be pointed out.

4. The child in the first year requires watching, and as soon as it begins to sprawl about, if not watched, often gets into mischief. To prevent mischief, and to set the mother free, not in England but in many parts of France, Italy, Germany, and other countries, the baby from the first is bound up in bandages, the legs together, and arms by the side, so that it looks a stiff, still, living little mummy, rolling its eyes about, which apparently for want of power rather than will are allowed their liberty. The child can be thrown upon the back, carried under the arm, or, as is at times the case, suspended by a loop upon a hook. This band on every limb is the imperial remedy for the accidental evils of liberty, but it must be ten times as pernicious as the disease.

The *maillot*, as it is called, was eloquently denounced by Buffon and Rousseau, yet you see it frequently on the continent, where it is one cause of the high mortality, and leaves indelible traces on the development of the child. The negro has been emancipated, the serf has been set free, how long is the child to be ruthlessly bandaged in this fashion, which must have descended from ancestral savages of the age of flint instruments? The brutes of the field now know better.

5. The maintenance of large standing armies by conscription

necessarily takes a large portion of the young men from agriculture and industry, who, as they have nothing to do except at parades and reviews, are in the cafés and wine shops instead of the fields and workshops; so you see the sisters and mothers doing the hard work instead of nursing children and keeping their houses in order. The reduction or the employment of the continental armies on productive work, will reduce the mortality of children.

6. English children are not bound hand and foot in tight bandages to keep them quiet, but it is beyond doubt that where the women are taken from home, in some agricultural as well as manufacturing districts, they are drugged with opium for the same purpose; and thus many lives are lost.\*

This should be put a stop to at once by law.

7. In our large cities, with scanty house accommodation, without gardens, young children are imprisoned indoors, or only get fresh air and exercise where they are liable to be run over. Open spaces for play in every street, or access under regulations to the squares, would be a boon which both children and parents would appreciate.

8. If the infant schools were well ventilated, they would not so frequently as they are be the channel for the diffusion of zymotic diseases.

9. A large portion of the mortality of children is due to the want of water, or to the use of impure water in which the discharges of the sick suffering from diarrhœa, cholera, typhoid fever, &c., find their way in town and country. A pure water-supply is a vital necessity; so is the abolition of the cesspool—that magazine of all the contagions.

10. The crowding of population in dwellings and in narrow lofty streets excluding sun and wind, is a certain cause of mortality; sometimes generating disease, and always rendering its attacks when introduced from without, more fatal.

11. Ignorance, vice, and drunkenness of parents are fatal in many ways to children. Any measure for the education of adults of the present generation will have an immediate effect on their children.

All these things appear petty and common in the enumeration; but the health of a child depends upon a thousand small cares, each in itself an infinitesimal quantity, in the sum, the condition of life.

I have not said anything about foundling hospitals, which the Abbé Cesare Contini looks upon as arks of safety for children. They are especially, but not exclusively, catholic institutions, and have never thrived in Protestant communities: they have something in them of the secrecy of the confessional. Guido, Pope Innocent III,

\* See Mr. Simon's eloquent denunciation of the "destructive practice of drugging infants with opium."—"4th Report of Medical Officer of Privy Council," pp. 32—5.

Vincent de Paul, and many excellent men as well as women, who founded these hospitals, were animated by excellent intentions; their object was to save children's lives and to put a stop to infanticide. The wretched mothers dropped their babies on the foundling's wheel of fortune (*tour*; *ruota*) instead of the street. Hitherto the system has worked badly: it was tried and suppressed in London. In France, Italy, Russia, Germany, the mortality in the foundling hospitals has been immense; infanticide has not been diminished by the *tour*. It has an undoubted tendency in great cities to diminish the penalty of unchastity, and to discourage marriage; while it further breaks up the ties of the family by tempting parents not entirely destitute of parental affection to abandon their children.

I beg the excellent Contini to study the tables, drawn from official sources; he will find that the destruction of children is greatest in the countries endowed with the grandest foundling hospitals.

I am not prepared to go to any extreme, and to say that an institution such as the London Foundling Hospital is now, should be suppressed. In society, delicate and often tragic incidents spring up which can be dealt with by no inflexible rule: and it is quite certain that in some cases children can be better educated by strangers than by their own parents. As a Christian community, England professes to take charge of helpless orphans and of destitute young children; but that the treatment which they meet with in work-houses is the best possible, I am not convinced.

There is one peculiarity about families; some married women, apparently in perfect health, bear no children, others bear twenty or more. In the census report of 1851, I estimated the number of childless families\* at a million. Now, it would appear to be a better arrangement for the Union to place its orphans under inspection, with an allowance, in the care of wives without children, or with one child, than to keep them within the walls of the workhouse.

And with regard to the whole of the population, it seems desirable to encourage people of means without children to adopt the children of parents who, from need or from any other cause, cannot bring up or educate all their children worthily. These parents by adoption would be often amply repaid for their hospitality to little children. Such families are the only foundling hospitals in which I should be quite willing to confide.

Some simple law of adoption, and the example of the great, would suffice to make the practice popular.

If the subject which we are discussing in this room to-night gain any attention in Europe, as it may, through the statisticians who have

\* Natural families, as represented by husband and wife, by widow, or by widower.

promised to co-operate in the work, many children who, under the present system of treatment are doomed to die young, will live; and this raises two objections which I am bound to notice.

If weakly children are tided over infancy, the result, it may be said, will be an increase of sickly adults and degeneration of race. All breeders of animals throw aside bad specimens. The Spartans did not allow the father to dispose of his child as he thought fit, for he was obliged to take it to the tryers, who, if they found it puny and illshaped, ordered it to be carried to a sort of chasm under Taygetus; of this course Socrates in Plato approves. At Athens and Rome the infant at birth was laid upon the ground, and was abandoned to its fate if the father did not lift his child from mother earth, who was assumed to have claims upon its fragile body.\* The Romans were reproached by the Christian fathers for their inhumanity. "Which of you," says Tertullian, upbraiding the Gentiles in rude eloquence, "has not slain a child at birth?" Thus the right of a child to life was questioned at its very threshold, and he only won it after examination. Children were dipped, like Achilles, in cold water to harden, or to kill them, as the case may be.

Through Christianity, through one of the leading races of mankind—the Jews—and through the manly sense of the Anglo-Saxons, we have been led to look upon children in another light, and be they weak or strong their lives are sacred in the eyes of English law. Experience has justified this policy. Great qualities of soul are often hidden in the frailest child. One Christmas day a premature posthumous son was born in England of such an extremely diminutive size, and apparently of so perishable a frame, that two women who were sent to Lady Pakenham, at North Witham, to bring some medicine to strengthen him, did not expect to find him alive on their return. He would inevitably have been consigned to the caverns of Taygetus if the two women had carried him to Spartan Tryers. As it was, the frail boy grew up into Newton, lived more than four-score years, and revealed to mankind the laws of the universe.† If he had perished, England would not have been what it is in the world.

In Paris one evening a puny child in a neat little basket was picked up: he had been left at the church door; the commissary of police was about to carry him to the foundling hospital, when a glazier's wife exclaimed: "You will kill the child in your hospital, give him to me; I have no children, I will take care of him." She cherished her boy, poor as she was, until some one, perhaps his father, settled a small annuity on his life, with which he was educated at the Mazarin College, where he displayed the early genius of

\* *Tollere liberos, de terra tollere, et nutrire atque educare.*—FORCELLINI.

† "Newton's Life," by Brewster.

a Pascal: it was D'Alembert, to whom we are indebted for a new calculus, for the grand introduction to the Cyclopædia, and for innumerable physical discoveries. He was offered 100,000 frs. a-year by Catharine of Russia, but refused to leave his mother by adoption—the glazier's wife—and his country.

It would be easy to multiply instances, to prove how impolitic it is to take away life on the verdict of the most clear-sighted tryers. How false, then, is the policy of exposing children to those blind tryers, the pestilences which infest infant life in Europe? Let the little strangers have a fair chance; in their respect, "Be given to hospitality, and you may entertain angels unawares."

Practically, the men who survive out of a great number of unhealthy children are not the best lives. The mortality of the children is an accurate index to the mortality of the whole population. By the law of natural selection, you could only generate a low short-lived type of humanity in bad hygienic conditions.

What have we to say when we are told that Europe will be over-run with population if fewer children are destroyed in infancy? England answers for me: over-run the world. There is room for all the European types in the other quarters of the globe, and Europe itself is still only half peopled.

It is certainly in conformity with Darwin's law, that in the struggle for existence, out of which the improvement of species springs, the race which breeds and educates the greatest number of vigorous, intelligent children, has the best chance of winning and of holding its own. Let all Europe, then, strive for the prize: the English race in these islands, in the northern provinces of America, as well as in the United States, has a firm hold on the earth, and welcomes them as generous rivals in common efforts for the elevation and development of humanity.

NOTE.—I addressed a few queries to statisticians of eminence in some of the countries of Europe; and I subjoin the answers in their own words. It will be gratifying to English readers to find how clearly their blood relations in Scandinavia and Germany can express themselves in the English tongue. My friend Dr. Stark has favoured me with answers for Scotland; and at a future time I hope to be able to get similar information for England and Ireland as well as for Italy and Spain.